

PRY, SAMUEL, MILL
(Hitt Mill)
Keedysville Road
Sharpsburg Vicinity
Washington County
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-958-A

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MD,
22 SHARPS,
21-4-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PRY, SAMUEL, MILL
(Hitt Mill)

HABS NO. MD-958-A

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Location: Keedysville Rd., south of Upper Bridge, Sharpsburg
Vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Significance: This mill is significant for its vernacular
architecture, its contribution to local commerce,
and its association with the nearby Civil War
Battle of Antietam.

Description: The mill is a five-story, three-bay, rectangular
stone and brick structure built as a grist mill.
The ground story which is exposed on the south or
creek side, and the first full story above ground
level are constructed of coursed limestone. The
three upper stories are built of bricks laid in
common bond at all elevations. Windows in the mill
have six-over-six-light double hung sashes. The
wood shingle roof, barge boards, and cornices are
modern, having been replaced during restoration of
the mill in 1972.

History: Architecturally, Hitt's Mill represents two major
early nineteenth century construction traditions in
Western Maryland with the use of stone, and brick.
Evidence suggests that the stone portion of the
mill was built by Samuel Hitt sometime in the
early-nineteenth century. It is constructed of
high quality masonry particularly as seen in the
arch construction toward the base of the south
wall. After a fire destroyed part of the original
structure in the mid-nineteenth century, a brick
section was added. In 1846, the Hitts sold the
mill property to Lewis Watson. Samuel Pry and
Philip Pry purchased the property from Watson on
December 16, 1847. The Pry family retained the
property until 1941. The mill was in operation
until 1926.

While in use, the mill served several functions for
the community both economically and socially. It
provided a means for local farmers to process their
grain products and served as a meeting place for
neighbors. During the Battle of Antietam, the mill
was used as a hospital for Federal Troops. The
Sanitary commission, an organization similar to
today's Red Cross, gave the hospital a poor
evaluation. According to their report, this
hospital was poorly managed due to the fact that
the surgeons were young and frequently intoxicated.

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Sources: Hitt's Mill and Houses, National Register of
Historic Places nomination form, 1981

Historian: Martha Wagner
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